

**** Revisions made at 9/20/16 SC meeting**

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mr. Michael Fain; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. Stuart Peterson; and Mr. Matthew Plain. Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair (absent) Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Cole students, Jack Gacawich, Jessica Caterson, Joshua Land, Jessie Martin, Sami Gangji, Kate Burbridge, and Samantha Shorr were present to address the School Committee on the field trip policy

under change. Jack Gacawich stated that field trips afford all students the ability to go above and beyond the standards and benefits everyone. They enhance the curriculum and present it in three dimension. The present, proposed policy may prevent us from going on trips that are beneficial to learning, for example, Washington, D.C., New York, the Federal Reserve, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, Chinese Economic Summit and the high school language trips. “He strongly hopes that the policy is acted on because teachers need to plan.” Jessica Caterson stated that field trips do add three dimension to things. “There’s only so much one can do in a classroom especially with the sciences and languages.” Ms. Mark addressed the students and told them she appreciates their time and that the policy will be on the September 20 agenda and certainly your comments will be taken into consideration. Ms. Mark explained the policy process to the students and that it will be the third read on September 20. School Committee members are elected to set policy, but the public is welcome to provide feedback.

David Gecawich addressed the Committee with his comments supporting the field trip policy as it stands. “PTG’s, and other organizations have supported students financially with regard to field trips. Field trips afford life skills that are not provided in the classroom. I do not agree with the change in policy to allow only field trips paid solely by the school department. Such a policy would require an increase to an already significant school budget or the elimination of most field trips. “I am in support of school funded financial aid to families with a financial hardship.”

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that he would like to meet after school with the Cole students present this evening before the policy is presented again on September 20 to consolidate their questions, comments, and concerns. Mr. Plain and Dr. Sun will be joining Dr. Mercurio when he meets with Cole students on the field trip policy. The meeting will take place after school at Cole.

Dr. Mercurio welcomed Dr. Michaela Keegan, one-year interim assistant principal at Cole, to the administrative team. She comes to us from Providence with a wealth of experience. He also expressed wishes for Mrs. Meyer.

The construction presentation to RIDE, which is due October 14, is being worked on and will be presented in his report on September 20.

Implementation of all day Kindergarten classroom instruction has gone well. Lunch and recess is a challenge, but we will continue to work on this challenge through staggering line times and recess in order to give children the time needed.

Professional Learning, August 29 & 30, 2016- Representatives from Teachers 21 from Cambridge, MA (Differentiated Instruction) and the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), from Hartford, CT (Dyslexia) presented. Teachers 21 worked on growth mind set

examples and instructions for classroom practice. A survey was submitted to faculty and staff to get their feedback and what is needed to do for a follow-up session with Teachers 21.

Teachers 21 was used last spring with our mentors and a follow-up survey was submitted to teachers and it was favorable, which led him to engage them again.

CREC was recommended through one of the required Professional Development logs submitted to the superintendent's office. Several teachers who saw the presentation on dyslexia, which included definition, warning signs, identifying process, and assisting teachers with strategies to help students who may be at risk, suggested that it should be presented to grades K-12. He worked with the bargaining unit on a flexible schedule rotation- elementary on 1st day and secondary on 2nd. Instruction for K-12 teachers on both topics was given over a span of two days. Dr. Mercurio will report the feedback from both sessions at the next meeting or the time after that.

Ms. Mark stated that she is interested in the impact in the district and what and how historically dyslexia was addressed and the current thinking moving forward using best practice research.

Dr. Mercurio replied that the dyslexia presentation viewed by large numbers of professionals came out and said that how they thought about that topic and how they engaged students was very different than when they went in. He is looking forward to seeing the results of the survey that was sent out.

Jody Stone asked, "Whether East Greenwich was aware that a dyslexia law passed last year, and what is East Greenwich doing to

abide by that law? What has changed?"

Mr. Wilson, Director of Student Services, responded that the first step will be more training. East Greenwich will not be waiting for state funding and will inform everyone to let them know what is going on.

Mr. Plain explained that there has been no policy change at this time.

**** He noted that the district needs to comply with statutes and regulations including IDEA whether there is a policy or not.**

V. School Committee Concerns

No concerns. Mr. Plain explained that infrequently School Committee members have concerns or bring up new topics in open meetings. The Committee is concerned about what goes on in the district, but in reference to the open meeting act, new topics for discussion are not brought up for discussion. It is just not appropriate."

VI. Action Items

a. Resignations

**1. Barbara Brusini Co-Advisor position of Drama Club,
COLE**

2. Jessica Shiel, 0.2 FTE Physical Education Teacher, COLE

**3. Jillian Ayala, 1.0 FTE, Science/Biology Teacher,
HIGH SCHOOL**

**4. Kristen DePetro, 1.0 FTE, Sp. Ed Paraprofessional
1-1, COLE**

5. Marianne Bourcier, 1.0 FTE, Sp. Ed.

Paraprofessional, HANAFORD

On a motion made by Mr Peterson and seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee

voted (5-0) to accept the resignations.

b. Retirement

1. Joan Loppi, 1.0 FTE, Clerk, Central Office

On a motion made by Mr. Fain and seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted

(5-0) to accept the retirement. Ms. Loppi will be recognized at a later School

Committee meeting.

c. Appointments

1. Science/Biology (1 year only)-EGHS-Nicholas Andreozzi

2. World Language Teacher Grade 6 (1 year only)-COLE-Ani Kasparian

3. Resource Teacher Grade 3-1.0 FTE-HANAFORD-Susan Daley

4. Reading Specialist-1.0 FTE-MEADOWBROOK-Natalie Mallilo

On a motion made by Mr. Plain and seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted

(5-0) to approve the appointments. It was noted that the Science/Biology position

is not a one year only but a 1.0 FTE

5. Sp.Ed. Paraprofessional-1.0

FTE-HANAFORD-Kimberly Benjamin

6. Sp.Ed. Paraprofessional-1.0

FTE-ELDREDGE-Christina Florio

7. Sp.Ed. Paraprofessional-1.0

FTE-ELDREDGE-Stephanie Metcalfe

8. Sp. Ed. Paraprofessional-1.0 FTE-COLE-Jaime Martin

On a motion made by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Dr.

Sun, the Committee

voted (5-0) to approve the appointments.

9. Head Coach Boys' Soccer-COLE-Richard D'Amico

10. Volunteer Assistant Coach Boys' & Girls' Cross

Country-COLE-Allison

Shunney

On a motion made by Mr. Fain and seconded by Mr.

Peterson, the Committee

voted (5-0) to approve the appointments.

VII. Second Read of Revised Policy

4215 Health and Wellness

There are no recommended changes between first and second read. Only change-incorporated RI Law governing recess language for all elementary students. East Greenwich Schools will provide recess opportunity consistent to RI Law.

On a motion made by Mr. Fain and seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted (5-0) to adopting the revised the Health and Wellness Policy.

VIII. Discussion

a. All Day Kindergarten Update

Discussed in Superintendent's report

b. School Start Time Update

Dr. Mercurio stated that he will give a brief summary of where he is based on a variety of different factors. School Committee took action in 2015 on revised start times for 2017 planning purposes. In 2016 there were 11 high school buses, 8 Cole buses, 6 Eldredge buses, 7 MBF buses, 7 Frenchtown buses, and 7 Hanaford buses. This year there are 8 High School, 9 Cole, 5 Eldredge, 4 Meadowbrook 5 Frenchtown, and 3 Hanaford. This is a significant reduction along with planning of routes and consolidation of a variety of different stops. A more significant part was the revision from three tiers to two tiers. Based on feedback where routes have changed, concerns over length of routes, and placement of routes and stops, adjustments were made and revised stops posted. Cole and High School are the main focus on that second tier. The routes children were on were based on ridership. There was a significant numbers increase due to enrollment, especially at Cole. The numbers went from 2,427 in June to 2,527 students in August. In June, at Cole, there were 630 students and now there are 681 students. Cole's ridership drives what is done in terms of transportation. There is a large number of Cole students that come to school by bus. The first tier does not get the effects like the second tier. Looking at the last three days, it was noticed that when the first tier does not get to point a to point b where it needs to go, it impacts the rest of the tiers and

impacts afternoon rides as well. When the first tier comes late and arrives late, there is a 25-30 minute lateness during second tier at elementary schools. The variations are significant where buses are servicing children. Over the course of the last three days, Dr. Mercurio met with Ocean State about bus stop revisions based on feedback from corresponding with parents, via email, phone, and at meetings at bus stops. He asked them to please revise based on this feedback. On Friday, Dr. Mercurio made a robo call about the changes. However, the changes were in conflict with what he received from Ocean State approximately an hour and one-half later. He did not distribute those stops because the first tier either Cole or the HS was getting on at 7:00 A.M., which was inconsistent with school start time policy. Bus drivers related that they would start early to get to schools on time. He complicated things by advising parents to go by the August 30 schedule. Consequently, there was much confusion, which he takes full responsibility. He met with Ocean State to look at the scenario with not just one but two buses to support tiers one and two; he must have authority for any changes impacting the fiscal budget. Mr. Murgo, of Ocean State Transit, is working with him to partner in implementing two buses across first and second tiers and only charging for one bus. The cost is \$70,000.00 per general education bus. Dr. Mercurio would like to move forward with Ocean State to allow them to add buses to both tiers and to redistribute those runs with children with too long and too many stops as well as children riding more than 35 minutes. He will publish those changes by end of the week for implementation

next week. The general education bus appears to be the one that concerns ridership. The posted numbers says 77, and there can not be any standees or four to a seat. He has boarded buses to make certain that this is not taken place. Bus runs are being looked at because everything is being done simultaneously-first run and second run. He will also be looking at two points at the same time-Meadowbrook and Hanaford. Stop times are not staggered anymore, so parents can not walk to point a to point b. He will see if Ocean State can combine those but it does require more time on the run. Hopefully, he may be able to make stops more in sync and aligned with the addition of two buses. Parents can not be expected to be at two stops at the same time. Syncing special education buses and regular buses, is key as well. First and foremost, his concerns are the length of time students are on the bus, number of students on the bus, and change those stops within the configuration of what was proposed initially. There have been a number of adjustments made to the initial document sent out prior to school. There are several adjustments to be made to meet expectation of service and safety. Dr. Mercurio's recommendation going forward on a fiscal perspective is \$70,000.00 added to this fiscal year's budget. Mr. Plain asked whether Ocean State Transit is willing to absorb the cost of one bus for this year? Dr. Mercurio responded yes and that Mr. Murgu will also absorb the cost of Safe Stop. Ms. Mark thanked Dr. Mercurio for all his efforts. She noted that at the time the Committee made this decision, there was a certain set of assumptions based on information from the bus company, which was

based on ridership in the district. There was an increase in enrollment of approximately 100 students that was not taken into account. The enrollments took place over the summer, which the bus company did not factor in. In the past, the district averaged 16 new students per year but this year 100. There was a big spike across the board, so we have numbers today that are not the numbers that the bus company was looking at when making their initial set of assumptions and testing runs.

Mr. Fain asked where the two buses would be added. Dr. Mercurio responded bus 12 at Hanaford and Cole and Bus 5 at Meadowbrook. Mr. Plain explained Safe Stop allows parents to track students on the bus as to where in real time they are. The initial cost is \$6,000.00. Mr. Mercurio said Mr. Murgo will give us Safe Stop for free this year and provide to parents at no charge. The stops will be established and up and running first before anything is sent out to parents. Ms. Mark encouraged parents to use the transportation form. Dr. Sun said that free service will be offered for this year's Safe Stop, but what about going forward? Dr. Mercurio will revisit that this winter during budget workshops, 2018. The cost to parents is approximately \$5.00 a month.

Parent Comments:

Christian Roos, parent addressed the Committee with issues interconnected with time on bus and stops. "My focus in on policy. Are there district policies on student capacity per bus, school bus start time, student perceived, safety at stops, time students on on the bus, and time of drop off at school? If so, do I have access to see

these policies? I would like to see certain policies for making our students safe-perhaps looking at seat belts.”

Dr. Mercurio stated that at the elementary schools, students are greeted by school paraprofessionals. In terms of capacity, he noted that it is posted that there can be three students to a seat. In relation to safety of stops, it is recorded back to the School Committee. He is looking to make changes at stops by having a separate set of eyes with the safety team of Ocean State and the East Greenwich Police visit stops and assess whether they are safe. The team will walk some of the stops where children are expected to walk.

Look at short and long-term stops where the bus is dropping students on opposite side and crossing Post Road. Dr. Mercurio is not comfortable with these stops and have asked to move those stops to parallel roads.

Ms. Mark added that all School Committee policies are on the School Committee link on the East Greenwich website.

Mr. Peterson stated that he wanted to address the time on the bus. There is a disconnect between planning and execution. There are 535 stops in East Greenwich and the way Ocean State had it drawn up was that only 11 stops out of 535 would be on the bus for 45 minutes or longer. That was less than 2% of student ridership. With what Ocean State provided, students should have been on the bus 30 minutes or less. Execution wise this is not working out. He commended Dr. Mercurio in trying to fix disconnect and execution and to work out a solution.

Dr. Mercurio stated that in December 2015, when the implementation plan was finalized, he also had an outside consulting group look at the plan, Flahive Consulting. What Flahive did not have was the increase in the number of students by summer's end. His conclusions were consistent with what was brought up by the group. That report is on line. Dr. Mercurio will post the Transportation Service Agreement with Ocean State.

Denise Lopez- addressed the Committee and asked whether there was anyone from the bus company present tonight? "Were they invited? There is a disconnect between communication between the school district and the bus company. Our bus 6 is coming too early."

Dr. Mercurio responded that the community is moving to a bus stop at the time it is posted. Mr. Murgo is meeting with bus drivers to tell them to be at stops at times posted. His goal is to have new routes

posted on Friday.

Paul Nardozi, Eldredge/Frenchtown addressed the Committee about bus travel times- from the time it leaves and the time getting to school. “Is it when school is dismissed or when the bus leaves? How long will we test two extra buses before we say we might need five?”

Dr. Mercurio stated that the expectation of getting on the bus is when the time begins. If the bus is late pulling out, students may potentially already have been on the bus for 25 minutes. Theoretically, when a student leaves the building, the student is on the bus whether the bus is there or not.

Grace Burbridge, fifth grade student at Eldredge addressed the Committee regarding Bus 8. “There are three to a seat with 26 stops. I don’t feel that this is safe. How will you cut back on 26 stops by adding two additional buses? Bus 6 needs adjustments in the number of stops. Twenty-six stops are too many. The students are leaving the school building at 3:15 P.M. but waiting outside for the bus.”

Ina Land- Addressed the Committee about students sitting three to a seat. “This should not be taken place for Cole students who carry large backpacks. Three to a seat is not safe. There was an incident where one student fell on my daughter in the middle of a ride. High School and Cole buses should not have three to a seat. For that

matter, elementary should not either. Also, 40 to 50 minutes on the bus is not okay.”

Dr. Mercurio stated he observed the runs the first three days of school with Cole students three to a seat as a concern. After school activities reduce the numbers, but he can not assume this. The morning run is an issue.

Josh Land, eighth grade student at Cole addressed the Committee adding to his mom's concern of three to a seat and students sitting in the aisles. “Students are leaning against the emergency door. This is just crazy, not comfortable, nor safe. On Friday, my bus driver was five minutes early and when we got on the bus, she was annoyed with us for being late. We had no notice of early arrival. The bus driver told us starting today the pick-up time would be 7:20 A.M. and not the time posted.”

Sally Miranda, Cole/High School addressed the Committee and stated that she is in the minority in that the bus has been very efficient for her children and neighborhood. “The Cole bus is at capacity. It is thirty-five minutes later than last year-7:40 A.M. not 6:55 A.M. There is an increase in the popularity of riding the bus. Parents are less available at 7:40 A.M. than 6:55 A.M. The drive- thru at Cole is better as more children are riding the bus. Thirty minutes of bus time is working well for my children.”

Parent, Eldredge/High School addressed the Committee and asked if

we contract under the assumption that 100% will be riding the bus? “Also, do we know how many are actually taking the bus? Perhaps a survey for ridership would help.” Dr. Mercurio said that he would need to look back at reports to answer the percentage of population riding. He must be obligated to go on the assumption of 100% of students with ridership and that is what we go on. Ms. Mark said a survey will be done at some point.

Tracy Barron, Cole addressed the Committee and asked why there was no communication with the bus company in August about the increase in enrollment? “Why did the bus company not know that there was an increase of about 100 students this year? Bus schedules come out about one week before school. They must have had a list. Perhaps a survey could have been done to see who was going to ride the bus.”

Dr. Mercurio stated that the late enrollments were at Cole and the elementary schools. When enrollment numbers are looked at, we are not sure whether students who qualify for a bus will take it or not. The Kindergarten program brought an increase as well. As a follow-up, it is wise to do a survey.

Mrs. Barron asked, “What will need to be done if we need more buses?” Dr. Mercurio stated that he will report to School Committee and then move forward based on his recommendation.

Mindy Burbridge, Eldredge/Cole addressed the Committee and asked why was everything done in one year? “All day Kindergarten,

alignment of four elementary schools, and later start time for Cole and high school? What was the rush? My three children will not ride the bus.”

Ms. Mark stated that elementary alignment is what cost the money. Aligning the elementary schools while implementing all day Kindergarten eliminated the midday bus runs creating a savings in the transportation budget.

Mr. Fain stated that an increase in 55 students to Cole was significant and the increase was unexpected.

Mrs. Moss, Cole/High School addressed the Committee and stated that by pushing start times later there is less turnaround time.

Ms. Mark stated that based on what was told by the bus company for turnaround, which was 50 minutes, is the information that the Committee moved forward on.

Mrs. Moss stated that Mr. Peterson said that there was a disconnect between planning and implementation. “What I want to understand is the cost. This year Ocean State is giving us a bus but what happens next year? The total will be \$150,000.00 for two buses. I want to commend Dr. Mercurio for managing all of this. I was present at a meeting in March where Dr. Mercurio recommended against two initiatives being added in one year. Now we have the added complication with buses.”

Mr. Peterson stated that most people were worried about their tax bill going up next year with regard to buses. It is a valid concern and a sensitive issue, but the increase in taxes would be \$1.47 per month

per housing unit.

Danelle Detrangla, Cole/Hanaford addressed the Committee about equity with bus routes - bus 11 having 10 stops and bus 6 with 23 stops - why? "I applaud the extra two buses, but will it be the same people coming up with new routes? We were thrilled with the 8:00 A.M. start time, but there is no equity across the district. Eighty percent of Cole and high school parents do not see an extra 30 minutes of sleep time for their children. The bus company has not taken into consideration our knowledge in what works. They are listening to our complaints but doing whatever they want. I would like to see a community liasion between the bus company and the public."

Ms. Mark answered that there has always been some excessively long rides and also short rides in the district. However, this year some parents who were accustomed to very short rides were experiencing very long rides and visa versa. On paper there was an increase in equity across the district. What was seen from the data was that the variation in the length of bus rides across schools was actually depressed with an average of 25-30 minutes, but this was on paper. Moving forward, the Committee will take another look at the equity question.

Mrs. Detrangla stated that bus 12 has 19 stops with two minutes per stop which equals 38 minutes, not including travel time getting there after school starts. "There needs to be another person creating routes, perhaps principals, perhaps parents seeing routes first."

Mr. Fain explained bus runs vs. physical buses. There were less runs than last year and that's a problem.

Michael Potorscki addressed the Committee and asked who is responsible in setting the routes?

Dr. Mercurio responded that when the board makes a policy decision, it is his job to work with the vendor to establish the routes.

Mr. Potorscki asked, "Who made the routes?"

Dr. Mercurio stated that Ocean State was responsible for setting the routes. Outside vendors looked at routes to get some clarity when moving from three to two tiers.

Mr. Potorscki asked, "What point were the routes reviewed?"

Dr. Mercurio responded that they were reviewed monthly and reported back to the Committee in July but not in August when there was an increase in enrollment. When he looked at those routes, a decision for two more buses was not acted upon based on what was presented.

Mr. Potorscki asked, "Were the bus runs done with expected students riding?"

Dr. Mercurio responded that dry runs were done - not in real time.

Mr. Potorscki said, "That if the run was done in actual, there would not be the problems that there is now. More importantly, it is not fair to kids and it is unacceptable. If we still have a problem, who should we call?"

Dr. Mercurio stated that parents should call him.

Mr. Potorscki stated that the bus contract is up this year, August 2017

with the option to renew for two years. “Will the East Greenwich Schools be looking at other vendors?”

Dr. Mercurio stated that the bidding process for transportation starts in January, 2017.

Mr. Plain stated that RI General Laws dictates the School Committee’s responsibility. The superintendent is chief administrative officer of the schools and collaborator with the School Committee. “When we engaged Ocean State, we engaged them as a vendor, but we engaged them as a vendor to carry out our responsibility. It is our responsibility. Everything came before us and we met with Ocean State. We commend Dr. Mercurio’s hard work. I encourage all parents with concerns to contact the Committee.”

Nancy Day, Cole/Eldredge addressed the Committee and stated Cole has always been aligned with their start times, so she did not understand all the problems this year and would like to understand why this happened? “By starting later, we are not benefiting if the day ends later, activities start later, and homework starts later. With all the issues with bussing in the district, perhaps there should be an ad hoc committee of taxpayers. They may come up with some solutions to some of the problems that we are facing.”

Michael Friedman, Cole/Eldredge, Frenchtown addressed the Committee of his uncertainty about unification. “My Frenchtown child gets on the bus one-half hour after my Eldredge child but they both get to school at the same time. We said that money is no object,

so what is the least amount of busses we will need and still meet the standards that policy sets regarding overcrowding on buses and students getting to school on time? How does that number change going from a three tier to a two tier system?"

Dr. Mercurio responded that he could not say what that number is; He wants to see what it looks like with two more busses. His goal is to implement revision with what was talked about. He will report back to the School Committee on all the revisions. Dr. Mercurio explained that when there were three tiers, it was much easier to handle an increase in population because it was more localized to a particular tier.

However, now with two tiers, it is across the district. There has been an increase in population in grades 4-9. This increase affects everything across the entire district.

Tara Wood, High School/Cole addressed the Committee to say that her focus is about getting kids to school on time and safely. "We are getting sidetracked with the 30 minutes start time. High school and middle school kids were to see 30 minutes more sleep. That was a Health and Wellness policy that would be a positive benefit around academic learning. My personal experience is that I am seeing seven or eight minutes benefit out of 30 minutes. We have not seen 30 minutes benefit because of routes. This is another equity issue."

Ms. Mark stated that she wants to wait to see how the adjustments plays out. The goal is to get everyone as close to 30 minutes as possible.

Mr. Fain commented on the 30 minutes disconnect stating the

problems may be associated with not predicting the increase in riders, and more traffic. He applauded how solution focused everyone here this evening is and welcomes continued feedback. He Hopes that on Monday things will be better.

Pat Neville, Hanaford addressed the Committee with his concern about solving the increase in student ridership by adding more buses. "I am looking forward to the feedback from Ocean State with their new plan."

Tarra Marsella, Cole/MBF addressed the Committee saying that when she lived in New York City, there was heavy parent involvement with private buses. "There are gaps with parent communication and with district and the bus company. Why is there a bus stop for us when we only live nine-tenths of a mile from school? There are glaring issues that should have been addressed. We should have point people at each school, so Ocean State is kept informed. Perhaps we need to add another administrator for addressing this. There were problems last year, too. I recommend that we do a yearly survey."

Simon Wood, High School/Cole addressed the Committee and thanked them and Dr. Mercurio for all their hard work. "As the School Committee is making significant changes, I recommend that we think about the lessons learned here and address the implementation plan with more public involvement in terms of discussion, so that we do not have situations like this and we are not playing catchup."

Dave Gasowicz, Cole addressed the Committee and stated that he did not envy their position and that he is sure that this situation will be fixed. “ In the past, we did not use the Cole bus but we are using it this year. There was no way you could have known that we were going to utilize the bus this year. This is just one example of you not knowing that more students were taken the bus than you planned on.”

Kris Lugoglo, Eldredge addressed the Committee about the importance of tracking. “It would be beneficial having the bus company do more by doing counts, time their rides, and measure before and after as you progress where you want to be. I strongly recommend that we go back to the bus company with some variables in relations to solving problems.” Ms. Mark said that tracking data and a future survey will help. She stated that we analyzed what is on paper, and are looking for ride times that are 15 minutes or less, 30 minutes or less, 45 minutes or less, 60 minutes or less, and based on what’s on paper, have a very good sense of students who actually have rides of 30 minutes or less. That means nothing if the actuals don’t meet what is on paper. She feels that the closer we get to the actual being what is on paper, the more accurate our interpretation of the data is.

Chris Suellentrop, Frenchtown addressed the Committee and asked whether they will see the new routes before they are issued. Dr.

Mercurio stated that his intention is to get them prior to Friday and post over the weekend. He would like the opportunity to have the principals look at them. A fresh pair of eyes is always good. He has asked Ocean State to ask their corporate office in South Carolina to look at what they are doing and see if they are in agreement. After the posting, he encouraged people to contact him if there is anything that he has missed.

Parent, Frenchtown/Eldredge addressed the Committee and stated that her children are on the bus for over an hour. “My daughter is yet to be to school on time. The bus is not on time and has arrived at 8:55 A.M. for three days in a row. Is this happening across the board?”

Dr. Mercurio stated that it is across the board.

The parent stated that the bus actually enters Coventry to turn around. Dr. Mercurio responded that he is aware of that as there is a student who lives far out to the Coventry line and it is the safest spot for the bus to turn around. He has asked the bus company to look into that situation and is waiting to hear back.

**c. Teaching and Learning: Differentiated Instruction Dyslexia
Discussed in superintendent’ report**

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Plain and seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted (5-0) to adjourn at 9:31 P.M.

Margaret M. Ucci, Secretary